

Torrance, California
December 9, 1941

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, On Tuesday, December 9, 1941 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: Kail.

All persons present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held November 25, 1941, of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held December 2, 1941 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held December 5, 1941 be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, requesting that a loading zone be established between the two "No Parking" signs directly in front of the Torrance Elementary School at 22001 Martina Avenue. A note from J. H. Stroh, Chief of Police, accompanied the letter, advising of his concurrence with the above request.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of the Board of Education be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Kail arrived at 7:50 P.M. during reading of the above communication.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles

Office of the Sheriff, signed by Eugene W. Biscailuz, Sheriff, acknowledging receipt of the letter of November 27, 1941 in which the City expressed appreciation for assistance rendered by the Sheriff's Office during the recent emergency created by the earthquake of November 14, 1941.

A communication was read from the City of Inglewood, signed by C. C. Cupp, Chief of Police, acknowledging receipt of letter from City of Torrance in which the City expressed appreciation for assistance rendered by the City of Inglewood Police Department during the recent emergency created by the earthquake of November 14, 1941.

A communication was read from the Office of the Mayor, City Hall, Long Beach, California, signed by Francis H. Gentry, Mayor, extending invitation to Mayor Tom F. McGuire to attend the installation of a shrine of the United States Constitution to be installed under the sponsorship of the "I Am An American" Foundation, said ceremony to be held December 10, 1941 at 2:30 P.M.

Mayor McGuire advised that any member of the Council desiring to attend the ceremony should do so.

A communication was read from the Pacific Electric Railway Company, referring to the letter of November 12, 1941 from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, in regard to proposed abandonment of tracks on Cabrillo Avenue in Torrance. A brief summary of the work which has been done to date was given.

A communication was read from E. Raymond Cato, Chief, California Highway Patrol, acknowledging receipt of letter of November 27, 1941 in which the City expressed appreciation for service rendered by the Highway Patrol during the emergency created by the earthquake of November 14, 1941.

A communication was read from the Torrance High School, expressing appreciation for use of the Civic Auditorium December 3, 1941.

A communication was read from Faulkner, Oakes and Faulkner, Accountants and Auditors, submitting a proposal to audit the books of the City of Torrance for the current fiscal year for \$300.00.

Councilman Babcock moved the communication be filed. No second.

A communication was read from R. A. Ganahl, 438 Douglas Building, Los Angeles, soliciting the City's business in the matter of locating owners and heirs of tax deeded property recently purchased by the City of Torrance.

A communication was read from the State of California, Department of Public Works, enclosing a tabulation showing the apportionment of the October, 1941 quarterly payment of the $\frac{1}{4}$ cent Gas Tax allocation under Section 194 of the Streets and Highways Code for expenditure on streets of major importance. \$2,551.77 was listed as the City of Torrance share, which Mr. Jain announced is approximately \$500.00 higher than the last quarterly allocation.

A communication was read from the Huntington Land and Improvement Company regarding the subject of the Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway, with particular reference to its effect on the 175 acre parcel of land lying East of Elena Avenue and North of Redondo Wilmington Road, which property belongs to the Huntington Land and Improvement Company. Clerk Bartlett advised this letter had been read at a previous meeting and referred to

Engineer Jain, which letter had been returned by Mr. Jain with the notation that he could recommend no action at this time. Mr. Jain advised that it is the responsibility of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission to act on the matter, if any action is taken.

A communication was read from the Associated Division of the Tide Water Associated Oil Company, reporting no franchise receipts or earnings derived by said Company from the use, operation and possession of Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 1351 lying within the City of Torrance for the twelve months preceding December 2, 1941.

An application for employment was read from Jack E. Husbands, seeking employment as a truck driver, street maintenance, laborer for either Street Department or Water Department, or electrician's apprentice in the City Electrical Department.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the application of Jack E. Husbands be filed with the Clerk of the Civil Service Board. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 332

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE LIMITING
PARKING TIME ON CERTAIN STREETS
AND PROHIBITING PARKING ON CERTAIN
OTHER STREETS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 332 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 332 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to a resolution of the City Council regarding repair and reconstruction of the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1. It was decided to defer action on adoption of the resolution until the plans have been presented and approved.

Clerk Bartlett reported receipt from the State Compensation Insurance Fund of \$789.16, being a dividend of earned premium for the period from February 14, 1940 to February 14, 1941.

Clerk Bartlett reported receipt of \$310.58 from General Petroleum Corporation of California, representing franchise earnings for the year ending October 31, 1941 under Los Angeles County Ordinances Nos. 179 and 781.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$13.42 be made for photostatic copies of birth certificates of members of the Police and Fire Departments and for pictures of thirteen police officers and five firemen, these certificates and pictures being required in connection with operation of two-way radio for the Police Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$64.79 be made for fabricating pipe and welding rings to aerial base for two-way radio for Police Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$231.75 be made for (3) 1½" fog nozzles, (2) ½" shut off nozzles, 4 reducers for the Fire Department. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the price of wood for sale by the City of Torrance be established as follows: \$15.00 per cord for 24" wood delivered within a five mile radius of the City Yard, \$1.00 to be added for each five miles of delivery after the first five miles; \$16.00 for 16" wood delivered within a five mile radius of the City Yard, \$1.00 to be added for each five miles of delivery after the first five miles. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$176.10 be made for 200 gallons mobiloil for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$80.00 be made for material for construction of approximately 800 square feet of additional storage space at the City Park, to be used to store Christmas decorations after the holidays. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell suggested that the Fire Chief be authorized to locate a subsidiary station for housing a portion of the City fire equipment, as a precautionary measure in case of emergency which might develop during the current war. Mayor McGuire approved this suggestion. Mayor McGuire also suggested that, during the present existing emergency, and particularly during blackouts, the area immediately in front of the Police Department be kept clear of privately owned vehicles to facilitate moving police cars in and out with the least possible delay. Chief Stroh advised that police officers are parking their vehicles in the rear of the station on his request. Chief McMaster advised that he has instructed the fireman to park their automobiles some place other than in front of the police station.

Councilman Powell suggested that the subsidiary station for fire equipment be located as near the central station as possible, mentioning that the firemen will need sleeping facilities and telephone communication.

Chief McMaster advised he had investigated the matter and had located two places which might possibly be used. The only drawback, he said, is in the matter of keeping the places warm. Chief McMaster was instructed by Mayor McGuire to investigate the matter further and report to the Council.

Councilman Powell asked for reports from the Chief of Police and the Chief of the Fire Department regarding working hours for the members of the two departments since Sunday,

December 7, 1941, when the United States was involved in the world conflict through attack upon Pearl Harbor, Hawaii by an aggressor nation.

Chief Stroh reported that members of his department are working twelve-hour shifts seven days per week, which schedule went into effect Sunday night, December 7, 1941. He said this schedule is in conformance with the schedule of the Sheriff's Office and a number of small cities nearby. He said several other cities have arranged to give the officers time off for the days they accumulate during the emergency and said that he feels that members of the Torrance Police force should be compensated by being allowed time off at a later date, which can be arranged satisfactorily. He said the police officers have cooperated to the fullest extent and realize the importance of cooperation and harmony during this time of stress. Mayor McGuire said that, according to the speech delivered by radio by President Roosevelt this day (December 9, 1941), everyone will probably be working 7 days a week on 8 hour shifts in the near future. He said he could speak for the entire Council in saying that the police officers can rest assured that the extra time they will be putting in during the emergency will be counted as extra time and they will be allowed to take it off at a later date when it is convenient and when it can be enjoyed by the individual. He said that in all probability, the feeling of tenseness which is prevalent at the present time will lessen during the next week, making it possible to formulate and carry out plans.

Chief Stroh advised he had received a rush call to attend a meeting in Los Angeles with Mayor LaGuardia of New York and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, at which time, he said, everyone present had been furnished vital information regarding the present emergency, the press having been excluded from the meeting. He suggested that an emergency ordinance pertaining to blackouts be adopted. He said all the Orange County cities have already passed an emergency ordinance of this nature. The City of Gardena passed a similar ordinance at their meeting of December 8, 1941, he added. It will be absolutely necessary, he pointed out, to be given authority to enforce the blackout orders.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Chief Stroh to advise what signals were agreed upon. Chief Stroh advised that signals will be as follows: (1) Air Raid Signal, one long blast of the sirens for three minutes (2) All-Clear Signal, one blast of the sirens for one minute. The blackout signal was not agreed upon, he said. (3) Emergency call, six long blasts of the sirens.

Chief Stroh advised that a meeting is being held Friday, December 12, 1941 in the Supervisor's Office, at which time he will have an opportunity to read an ordinance which it is hoped will be adopted as a uniform law throughout the County.

Councilman Babcock said he felt the Police Department and the Fire Department should be notified that the City Council greatly appreciates the attitude taken by members of those two departments in responding so splendidly to demand made on them during this present emergency.

Chief McMaster, Fire Chief, reported that his department has been placed on a seven day working basis, the schedule being twenty-four hours on duty and twenty-four hours off duty, with no extra time off as was allowed heretofore. He said that no member of the Fire Department is allowed to leave town without notifying the man in charge and leaving a telephone number where he can be contacted immediately he is needed.

Engineer Jain advised that the City of Compton adopted a measure whereby any City employee desiring to leave the City for a period of more than two hours should notify his department head.

Chief Stroh said he thought it would be an excellent idea to require workers, and especially the street maintenance men, to keep in close contact with the situation at all times by being required to report their whereabouts to their department heads when they desire to leave town.

Councilman Powell suggested that, in the absence of City Attorney McCall, who is expected to return December 23, 1941, and if there is no law to prohibit it, the Police Judge be authorized to substitute for the City Attorney in the matter of drawing up resolutions and ordinances and in any other matters requiring legal action. Mayor McGuire advised that Mr. Hunter, Deputy City Attorney, had telephoned today that he had been instructed to report for military duty tonight, which would make it impossible for him to attend the City Council meeting. Councilman Powell suggested that matters can be simplified by allowing the Police Judge to substitute for the City Attorney during his absence.

Chief Stroh recommended that something be done to insure keeping the two-way radio communication system in use in case of an air raid which might damage power lines. He mentioned that Mr. Waddingham at the High School had advised that a six hundred watt generator will provide the necessary power for the system.

Chief Stroh advised that the siren in Walteria can be used for alarms to notify Walteria residents, the one in Torrance for the Torrance residents. Also, he said, the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company has a siren which can be used for signals.

Councilman Powell said the High School possesses three generators which are actuated by D. C. current. Chief Stroh advised that the two-way radio communication system actuates on the A. C. current. Mr. Riley advised the City Park has a 110 volt gasoline engine generator. Mr. Jain advised this generator could not be used in connection with the two-way radio communication system, as it is 220 volts. He said a Koehler or Fairbanks-Morse generator can be used.

After a short period of discussion, the matter was referred to City Electrician Butterfield and Engineer Jain for thorough investigation.

Mr. Jain advised that Mr. Edwin Bird had contacted him and presented the defense plan as drawn up by the American Legion and presented to the Council some time ago. He said that the plan would be to coordinate the entire city for the defense effort, which would include training the Street Department, Park Department and other groups to work under squad leaders. He said it would train individuals to know location of water valves, sewer lines, and gas lines and how to function with the least possible confusion in an emergency. Mayor McGuire advised him to give the plan further study and determine if it can be put to use.

Chief Stroh advised that Mrs. R. R. Smith, Chairman of the local Red Cross, had telephoned and asked whether or not the Civic Auditorium can be used as a Red Cross Headquarters in the event of a serious emergency.

Mayor McGuire advised that all city buildings will be available during emergencies.

Councilman Powell remarked that considerable difficulty had been encountered in trying to obtain sufficient firearms for the special police officers. He asked that the citizens be asked to loan whatever firearms they can spare to the Police Department.

Mayor McGuire asked whether or not it is desired to limit the firearms to the regulation 38's.

Chief Stroh advised that ammunition for 45's is harder to obtain than ammunition for 38's. All ammunition is scarce, he

said. He said he had obtained a supply of 50,000 rounds of 38 ammunition several months ago for the revolver club and would keep it on hand for a while.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion.

It was suggested that the meeting adjourn from day to day in order that the emergency ordinance might be passed as soon as possible.

Chief Stroh suggested that the meeting adjourn to Friday, December 12, 1941, allowing time for attendance at the meeting at which time the ordinance will be presented which it is hoped will be adopted by the entire County. He reported that the City of Gardena at its meeting of December 8, 1941 declared an emergency, delegating power to the Chief of Police to perform whatever duties become necessary during an emergency.

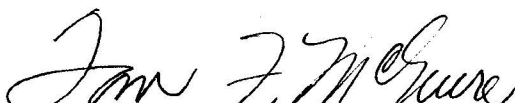
John A. Shidler, City Judge, remarked that it is unnecessary to delegate power to the Police Department, in that the department will be called upon to perform duties during the next few days and weeks which cannot be foreseen and power delegated in advance for.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to pay the bills, which was carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:55 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to December 12, 1941 at 4:45 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance